

To Hannah Webb.

Leicester (Mass.) Sept. 18. 1853.

Dear friend;

Your kind note reached me the 2<sup>d</sup> inst. I have waited a little, hoping to hear again, & more favourable tidings of your husband. I trust he is quite well again by this time, and you may depend upon it that it will rejoice our hearts to know that 'Richard himself again'. These autumnal fevers, with us, are apt to be quite severe. — I have heard nothing of Mr. Estlin since you wrote, & begin to be impatient to hear. — Please accept my thanks for your note — it has made me feel acquainted with you, which I did not before, — as you were absent from home, when I was at your house in 1843. — Mr. Webb will remember, I presume, the brother who was with me. He was then a little over 21. He remained single, until 31, when (about the 1<sup>st</sup> of last Decr.) he married a bright & pleasant young lady, in perfect health. Last Sunday she died, leaving him a little girl 4 days old; — a quick & bitter sorrow to him.

It was quite too bad that those little books got wet & injured. But I followed up the Express Agent, until he allowed & paid me three dollars for it, — which, deducting 50 cents, his charge for bringing the parcel from Phil<sup>a</sup>, leaves \$2.50, or about 10/6 of your money. I have sold more than half of them, at a reduced price of course on account of the stains on the covers, but shall (I doubt not) realize 12<sup>½</sup> cents each on them — which is their cost (about 6<sup>½</sup> each) as your husband informed me. So the account of that matter will stand as follows:

Rec <sup>d</sup> . for 50 copys. "Youth & Poet! Instructor," Part 2 <sup>o</sup> (a. 12½ cts. each) . . . . .	6.25
Double price rec'd of a friend for 4 copies; making to be added	.50
Rec <sup>d</sup> of Harned's Exrep., for damage to books..	3.00
	\$ 9.75
Deduct, paid H. & Exrep., for carriage of parcel } .50	
	\$ 9.25

which sum of \$9.25 - which I reckon to be £1,18,6 stg - can be paid to the compiler of the little book, and I will credit it to R.D.W. on account. This is averaging a little over 9<sup>d</sup> stg. each for the books; the price marked on the cover is 8<sup>d</sup>.

Another business item, to which your husband alluded in his note of July 22, - viz. the £1., which he forwarded some time since from "Pacific," to pay for the Liberator for a poor colored woman. That £1. has never been used (the object intended having ~~been~~ been already provided for), so I have rec<sup>d</sup> it again (\$4.80), and have credited it also to your husband, who can repay it to "Pacific."

I have \$16.50 credited on receipts for 1<sup>o</sup> vol. "Advocate" -  
of my acct. with R.D.W.  
also, on the Dr. side, sundry payments, made by his Order, amounting to \$7.30.

Mr. Wallcut has looked up the numbers of the Liberator which your husband wanted, i.e. 16 of the 18. Two of them (viz. 1845, No. 48 & 1848, No. 38) ~~are~~ he cannot supply. These 16 papers he will send by mail in the usual way; two cents each paper, postage, must be prepaid, making 32 cts., which I will pay Mr. Wallcut; - perhaps also a small sum for the papers, but probably nothing. I suppose, <sup>I am</sup> almost sure, it

is now impossible to get a complete file of the Liberator, from the beginning, for love or money.

Thank you for forwarding my note to George Thompson.

Your husband made some recent inquiries of me respecting Orestes A. Brownson. He is a man of whom I have personally known nothing, for a great many years. He is quite an enigma to me. He was once, as I have heard him say, a total unbeliever (and I suspect also a careless liver.) He became next a Unitarian Minister, was quite a reader, a student, and a zealot. He tired of that after awhile. I do not remember the sequence of several subsequent changes. Once he was an out & out Abolitionist - which faith he now curses, by all his gods, and has written much to prove that Slavery, Democracy, & Christianity, if not synonymous or identical, are yet in harmony. Since he became a Catholic, he has out-paced all other sons of the Church in the abjectness of his own (professed) humiliation, and in the audacity of his demands in the Church's behalf. Had he the power which, a century or two ago, he would have had, he would drive through his opponents, sparing neither age, sex, nor condition, shedding blood like water, & exterminating if possible every foe of the Church. His spirit is excessively vehement & bitter, - He had, at one time, some small laptop office; but, most of the time, as I have been informed, he has been very poor - himself & family often suffering for the absolute necessities of life. - This is all I can tell about Brownson; it is a long time since I have read anything he wrote. - I have no confidence in him, morally; still less (if that could be) in him, intellectually. I am sorry I cannot give something more definite & to the point. The Lib. of Mar. 11, 1853 has something about him.

I have read the 12<sup>th</sup> No. of the Advocate - which finishes Vol. I. - and feel curious, & anxious, to know if it will be continued. One thing I wish this No. had contained

which it does not, viz. a General Index to the Volumes. This is an almost indispensable accompaniment to such a work. Our Libr., & Standard, & most of our American periodical works, lose 4 fifths of their value, for purposes of reference, by being without any Index. - English works usually possess it. Perhaps it will be given yet, on a half-sheet.

In the sketch of the Unitarian Churches in this Country, are several inaccuracies of names, dates, &c., - some of which I will add, as it would be well to correct them in the next number:

- (1). 1840 is given as the year of Dr. Channing's death (near the bottom of 2<sup>d</sup> col<sup>n</sup>) - should be 1842.
- (2). Of course it is an error (near the head of 3<sup>d</sup> col<sup>n</sup>) to say he lived only five years from 1835 ; it should be seven.
- (3). Five lines farther down, same error is repeated - five for seven.
- (4). The address from British Unitarians was received in 1844, ~~not~~ <sup>late</sup> "early in 1844" (3<sup>d</sup> col.  $\frac{3}{4}$  of way down.)
- (5). My name is Samuel May Jr., - has no middle J.
- (6). It was in May, 1844, (not 1845) that I brought the subject of Slavery before the Am. Unit<sup>n</sup> Assoc<sup>n</sup>; &c., - quite a material error, which I especially wish corrected. This was ~~is~~ not a typographical error, but a mistake of the person who prepared the article; he did not follow the minutes furnished.
- (7). 90<sup>th</sup> page - 1<sup>st</sup> Col. - Mr. Palley is not now, & has not been for 2 or 3 years, a Member of Congress.
- (8). For Lotterop, read Lothrop; for Lawson, read Lamson;  
" S. Barnett " S. Barrett,

If your husband had been well eno' to give his usual attention to the paper, many of the above errors would not have been made; but some of them are not <sup>his</sup> errors, as above said. -

I hope to bear a favorable account of your husband and with my best regards to him, I am  
Very truly Yours Sam'l May Jr.